



Shojo Beat Manga

Tail Moon[☆] of the



Story & Art

Rinko Ueda

10

Tail Moon *of the*

Usagi is the granddaughter of the leader of a prestigious ninja village, but she's such a klutz that she's never made it out of the kiddie class. Frustrated with Usagi's lack of progress, her great-grandfather sends her to marry Lord Hanzo and have lots of ninja babies. But the lord has no interest in her or her childbearing potential!

After she sees her childhood friend Kame having a tryst with Ranmaru, Usagi concludes that Kame has betrayed Iga. When she confronts Kame, Ranmaru has Usagi imprisoned and Kame is seriously wounded! What are Ranmaru's plans for the two of them? And will Usagi return to Iga alive?



10

Story & Art by

**Rinko
Ueda**

A romantic ninja adventure!



Tail Moon



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Tail Moon

Volume 10

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Chapter 64

Tail Moon



THE SHINO OOMATSU
IN JAPAN
ARE HALF
PLANTS, SO
THEY DON'T
FEEL THE
PAIN

Story Thus Far...

It is the Era of the Warring States. Usagi is a failure as a ninja, but she is a skilled herbalist. She is working hard to qualify as a ninja so she can be the bride of Hanzo Hanzo (aka "Shimo no Hanzo").

Usagi is happily living together with Hanzo in a secret hideout after escaping from Honnoji. Unfortunately, she is unable to go outside freely since their adversary Ranmaru has begun hunting the Iga ninja.

One day, after succeeding in creating a medicine for Misuhide (who is against the attack on Iga), Usagi is reunited with her childhood friend Kame. Seeing that the once-slow Kame has become a fine ninja, Usagi vows to work hard and receives an assignment from Hanzo. But during the assignment, she finds out that Kame and Ranmaru are lovers! Thinking that Kame has betrayed Iga, Usagi goes to confront her. Usagi is discovered by Ranmaru, who grabs her and...



RANMARU...

I KNEW
YOU'D BE
HERE...

CREAK



WHO...

...IS
THAT
...?!



!!



SAKURA...



YOU...!!

AGH...









MAYBE SHE RETURNED TO IGA...

...SINCE THE ASSIGNMENT HERE WAS TOO TOUGH...









NEWS FROM UE-RIN !!

"Ue-Rin's Manga School" which was serialized in Akasura's "New Manga Season" section from volume 2 of 2004 (turbid volume 5 of 2005) has now become a small booklet and is being handed out to people who send in their work to "Manga Season". It turned out to be a tough piece of work (I know!) needed to write about how to draw manga in 12 pages and include a story with an introduction, development, climax, and conclusion, all that in addition to the work on "Ue-Rin's Manga School" is not everybody who's interested in becoming a manga artist to read it. Please check out Akasura's for more details.



LEND
ME A
FUTON
AND
SOME
WATER!!

PLEASE
!!

IT'S
BECAUSE
OF THE
WOUND...



YOU...

WE'VE GOT
NOTHING TO
GIVE YOU,
NINJA!!



...LEAVE ME
ALONE...?

WHY
COULDN'T
YOU...



WH...
WHY...

HOOF
HOOF



DON'T
TAKE
YOUR
EYES OFF
THEM!



G
R
P



YES,
SIR.



KAME
!!



HE'S
NOT
GOING
TO KILL
US...?



OH NO,
KAME!
YOU'VE
GOT SUCH
A HIGH
FEVER!!



THEN
WHAT
DOES HE
WANT US
FOR?

UNGH...



I'M
SORRY,
KAME!!



I CAN USE
THESE
BINDINGS AS
BANDAGES
FOR KAME...

I'M SO
SORRY!!

I'VE
BEEN SO
STUPID
...!



I
APPROACHED
RANMARU...
BUT...

...AND FINALLY
SUCCEEDED...
IN PINNING HIM
DOWN...

AN
ASSIGNMENT
...?



OH MY
GOD!!

KAME WAS
SEEING
RANMARU
FOR HER
ASSIGNMENT
!!





Tail of the Moon

Chapter 65



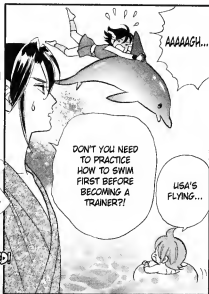
TAIL OF THE MOON EXTRA: TODAY'S MISSION
"I WANT TO SEE USAGI AS A DOLPHIN TRAINER!"

-MICHIRU, SHIGA PREFECTURE

I WANT YOU
TO TRAIN ME,
HANZO...



**MISSION
ACCOMPLISHED!**





IF USAGI WAS
GOING BACK TO
IGA, SHE
SHOULD HAVE
SAID SO...

FOR
GOD'S
SAKE...

HANZO!!

HI
THERE.

I SHOULD
CHECK TO
MAKE
SURE...

HMM
?!

THIS
HIDEOUT
SHOULD
ONLY BE
KNOWN TO
THE IGA
NINJA...

WH...WHO
IS THIS?!
AND WHY DOES
HE KNOW MY
NAME
?!

HANZO...

HOW
ARE YOU
DOING?

EVEN
IF HE
DOESN'T
KILL US
NOW...

USA...

I WON'T
KILL YOU
YET.

...HE'LL
KILL US
SOONER
OR
LATER!!





LET'S
PLAY
...!

KAAAAAME...

I'VE
HURT
KAME
AGAIN.

YOU CAN
DO THAT
TOMORROW.
LET'S
PLAY...!!



I HAVE TO GO
TO PRACTICE
TODAY.

YAY!



WELL...
OKAY...

THE MASTER'LL BE
EASIER ON YOU IF
YOU'RE NICE TO
USAGI.

A
GROUNDLESS
RUMOR LIKE
THAT SPREAD
AMONGST THE
OTHERS...

I HEARD THAT
KAME CAN GET HER
QUALIFICATION
EVEN IF SHE'S
JUST PLAYING
ALL THE TIME.

WHY'S
THAT?



THIS IS
ALL MY
FAULT...

THERE'S
ONLY A
SMALL
LIGHT...

THERE ARE
NO WINDOWS
HERE, SO I
CAN'T FEEL
THE WIND.

KAME
...

I'M
GOING TO
CHANGE
THE
TOWEL.

I CAN'T EVEN
TELL IF IT'S
NIGHT OR
DAY RIGHT
NOW...

NGH...



...KAME
ALWAYS
FORGAVE
ME.

LET'S
PLAY!

SURE!



...WHICH MADE ME
EVEN MORE ANGRY.
I COULDN'T HELP
SAYING THE WORST
THINGS TO HER.

KAME
NEVER SAID
ANYTHING...



I'M
BETTER
OFF
DEAD...

KAME...

DON'T BE
STUPID!!

I'M
HOPELESS...

WHY
CAN'T I
GROW
UP...?

IT WAS ACTUALLY
MY FAULT THAT
IT TOOK KAME
SO LONG TO
GET HER
QUALIFICATION...

I'M
SORRY...

IT'S MY
FAULT THAT
YOU'VE BEEN
WOUNDED...

AND NOW
WE'RE
LOOKED UP
IN HERE...



YOU
REALLY
DON'T
CARE...

...WHAT
HAPPENS
TO YOU?

NoD

USA...

THEN PUT
THIS OVER
YOUR HEAD
AND COME
OUTSIDE.

YOU
MUSTN'T
GO.

JUST LET
KAME GO
BACK TO
IGA!!



RANMARU,
PLEASE.

HELP
KAME!!

I DON'T
CARE WHAT
YOU DO TO
ME!!

I SAID "I'M
BETTER OFF
DEAD" JUST A
MOMENT
AGO...

KAME...

AAAAAGH

IT'S BAD FOR
YOUR WOUND
IF YOU CRY
SO HARD...

...BUT
I'M STILL
SCARED.

I'M REALLY,
REALLY
SCARED!!

PUSH

EEEE!

FWIP



USA...

DON'T
GO...



KAME...

TAKE CARE
OF GREAT-
GRANDPA
AND MAMEZO
FOR ME...

USAAA!!

RANMARU IS
HUNTING
DOWN THE IGA
NINJA, SO
WHY WOULD
HE HELP US?!

DOON
DOON



I DON'T
UNDER-
STAND
AT ALL.

OKAY...



WHAT'S
THAT
SOUND?

STOP
THAT!!

DOON

WHAT
?!

WHAT'S
GOING
ON?!

I'VE
BROUGHT
USAGI
BACK!

THAT'S
KAME'S
VOICE!!

A A G H



IT'S NOT
POISONED
OR ANY-
THING.

JUST
HURRY
UP AND
EAT IT.

EAT.

HUH?

EAT...
THIS?!



THIS IS
FOR THAT
GIRL BACK
THERE.

I'M NOT
REALLY IN
THE MOOD
TO EAT...

Y...
YES...



DON'T
ASK ANY
QUESTIONS.

ONCE YOU'VE
FINISHED
EATING, PUT
THAT BAG
OVER YOUR
HEAD AGAIN.



RA...
RANMARU,
WHY ARE
YOU...?



AND HERE
IS SOME
MEDICINE.

RICE
BALLS
?!







Tail of the Moon

Chapter 66



TAIL OF THE MOON EXTRA: TODAY'S MISSION

"I WANT TO SEE HANZO AS A SUPERHERO!"

-NAOKO NOSAWA, YAMASUCHI PREFECTURE



WHAT KIND OF
DISHES DID YOU
GET? WHAT DID
THEY TASTE
LIKE?

USA...

HUH...?

THE
SEASONING
OF DISHES IS
DIFFERENT
FROM PLACE
TO PLACE.

I WAS
TOO SCARED
TO PAY ANY
ATTENTION...

YOU MUST
REMEMBER YOU...
SOME-
THING...

I'M
SORRY...

SIGH

I ATE
SOME
FOOD...

FOOD?!

WE MIGHT
BE ABLE
TO FIGURE
OUT...

I DON'T
REMEMBER
ANYTHING
ABOUT IT...

BY THE
WAY,
USA...

...WHAT DID
YOU DO AFTER
RANMARU
TOOK YOU
AWAY?

WE'LL GO
HOME TO IGA
TOGETHER.



THAT IS
NONE OF
YOUR
BUSINESS.

GO!

RANMARU...

WHAT ARE
YOU GOING
TO DO WITH
THOSE
KUNOICHI?



SHFF

SHFF

YES,
SIR...



WHAT AM I
GOING TO DO
WITH THOSE
KUNOICHI?



RANMARU...

I DON'T
KNOW
EITHER...



FOR
ME?!

THIS RICE
BALL'S FOR
YOU, KAME...

OH...



I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
EITHER...

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
THIS AT
ALL...



RETURN TO
THE CAPITAL
AT ONCE, AND
CONTINUE TO
LOOK FOR THE
IGA NINJA.

YES,
SIR.

WHY IS
RANMARU
KEEPING US
ALIVE WHEN
HIS JOB IS TO
HUNT US
DOWN?



DO YOU
NEED ANY
HELP?

DON'T
WORRY.
I'VE
ALREADY
FINISHED...



MOTHER...



YES...

IT MAY BE A
GOOD IDEA TO
TELL YOUR
FATHER ABOUT
THIS.

RANMARU
GAVE US A
REASON FOR
BEING HERE,
BUT...

...MAYBE HE
ACTUALLY CAME
TO DO AN
INVESTIGATION
ON FATHER...

MY HUSBAND IS
STILL AWAY AT
THE CAPITAL ON
BUSINESS...

I DIDN'T
COME HERE
TO SEE
MITSUhide.

I JUST
DROPPED BY TO
GET SOME
THINGS I'D LEFT
BEHIND WHEN I
WAS LIVING
HERE.



WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE IN
SAKAMOTO?

MISS
TAMAKO
...
LADY
HIROKO
...





HANZO...!



HAVE YOU
DISCOVERED
WHERE USAGI
IS?!

YOU...



YES.

RANMARU
IS THE ONE
ENTRUSTED
WITH THE
IGA NINJA
HUNT...

...BUT RANMARU
HIMSELF HASN'T
BEEN SEEN
AT THE CAPITAL
FOR THE PAST
SEVERAL DAYS.

MEANWHILE,
AT THE
CAPITAL....

SO YOU'RE
TELLING ME
YOU HAVEN'T
HEARD
ANYTHING
ABOUT
USAGI?



RANMARU...



DON'T
WORRY.

WHO'S
THERE
?!





USAGI IS
ALIVE!

I'M
WILLING
TO STAKE
MY OWN
LIFE...

...TO
SAVE
USAGI!!



BUT
JUDGING
FROM THE
AMOUNT OF
BLOOD, IT
COULDN'T
HAVE BEEN
FATAL....

USA...
NO...

THAT KLUTZ
MUST HAVE
BEEN THE FIRST
ONE HUNTED
DOWN...

WHAT
?!

OF
COURSE
SHE'S
DEAD...!!



HOW COULD SHE
BE SO UNFILIAL
AS TO DIE BEFORE
MEEEE...?

POOR
USA...!!



STOP
CRYING
!!

TREMBLE



THE
SOUND
OF
WAVES!

I MUST BE
CLOSE TO
THE SEA!!





RANMARU
SMILED AT
ME...



COME TO
THINK OF
IT...

WHY DOES
HE LET ME
OUT OF THE
CELL TO
EAT?

Stop
right
there.









...AND...

...THEN
YOU...
TO THAT...
AND...

I...

I HAVE TO
DO SUCH
EMBARRASSING
THINGS?!

H
U
U
U
H
?!

I'LL TELL
YOU ALL THE
PROCEDURES!!

LISTEN
CAREFULLY!!



THAT'S
EXACTLY
IT!!

I've
just
told
you
before
this
group

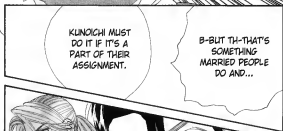
...NEVER
SLEPT WITH
ANYONE
BEFORE,
IS IT?



WHAT'S
WITH
THAT
RE-
ACTION
?

WH...
WHAT
?!

....!!



KUNOICHI MUST
DO IT IF IT'S A
PART OF THEIR
ASSIGNMENT.

B-BUT TH-THAT'S
SOMETHING
MARRIED PEOPLE
DO AND...



BUT...

...I'VE GOT
HANZO...



IT'S
NOT TOO
LATE!!

THAT'S
WHY IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE
FOR ME,
SEE?!

BUT I'M NOT
ALLOWED TO
CUDDLE WITH
HIM UNTIL WE'RE
MARRIED!!

BUT I THOUGHT
YOU BECAME
MASTER HANZO'S
BRIDE-ELECT,
USA...



YOU MAY
NEVER BE ABLE
TO MEET YOUR
LOVED ONE
AGAIN, USA! DO
YOU WANT
THAT?!



KAME...



I'LL
NEVER
DO IT!!

I DON'T WANT
TO DO SOMETHING
LIKE THAT WITH
ANYBODY OTHER
THAN
HANZ...

THAT WILL
ALL BE
MEANINGLESS
IF WE DIE
HERE!



Tail Moon

of the

Chapter 67

TAIL OF THE MOON EXTRA: TODAY'S MISSION

"I WANT TO SEE HANZO EATING A PARFAIT!"

-RIKO, NARA PREFECTURE





RANMARU
CLAIMS HE
WENT THERE
TO GET HIS
BELONGINGS...

...BUT MAYBE
HE'S CONNECTED
TO USAGI'S
DISAPPEARANCE.



I COULD HAVE
SAKAMOTO
SEARCHED IF
YOU WANT...



...
WHEN DID
HE...?



SO
RANMARU IS IN
SAKAMOTO?

...BUT ITS
PREVIOUS
LORD WAS
RANMARU'S
FATHER...

...YOSHINARI
MORI.

SAKAMOTO
CASTLE IS MY
HOME NOW...



I'LL
GIVE IT
A TRY!!



I'LL
NEVER BE
ABLE TO DO
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT ON
MY OWN...

BUT THAT
EMBARRASSING
THING YOU
TOLD ME,
KAME...

ONCE
YOU TURN
RANMARU
ON...

...YOU CAN
JUST LET
HIM DO THE
REST.



IT'S THE
ONLY WAY!

IN ORDER
TO GET
BACK TO
HANZO...



I HAVE TO
SEDUCE
RANMARU...



IF YOU
REALLY
DON'T WANT
TO DO IT, I
WON'T
FORCE
YOU...

S...SO
UNLESS I'M
ABLE TO
SEDUCE
RANMARU...

...WE'RE
NOT GOING
TO BE
ABLE TO
ESCAPE?

YOU JUST
NEED TO BE
YOUR NORMAL
SELF, USA.



C...
COULD
YOU BE
A LITTLE
MORE
SPECIFIC?

OR YOU CAN
TRY AND TEMPT
HIM WITH YOUR
WOMANLY SEX
APPEAL....

Like this?

SO HOW
DO I TURN
HIM ON...?

WELL,
YOU CAN
GIVE HIM A
COME-HITHER
LOOK...

What
do you
mean
by sex
appeal?

I SAID IT'S EASIER TO
SEDUCE MEN BEFORE
A MEAL THAN AFTER
A MEAL...

COULD
YOU REPEAT
WHAT YOU
JUST SAID?

AAAH...

...AND AT
TIMES LIKE
THAT, MEN
ARE...

BE
NORMAL....

SHUP

BUT TRYING TO
BE NORMAL IS
THE HARDEST
THING TO
DO...!!

THREE HOURS
LATER

I...I CAN'T
REMEMBER
ANYMORE...

OH...
MY HEAD...
IT'S SPINNING...

ARE YOU
LISTENING
TO ME?
USA!!

HEY...



HEY, THIS IS
THE PERFECT
OPPORTUNITY!

WIPE IT
WITH
THIS.

OWW...

OOOH

COULD YOU
WIPE IT FOR
ME...?

I'LL ADD
THAT
COME-HITHER
LOOK TOO!
♡

OOOH ♡

WIPE IT
YOURSELF!!

THANKS
FOR THE
FOOD!!

WHAT
?

CHOMF
CHOMF

WH...
WHY...?

WHY
NOT?

BECAUSE I
WANT TO EAT
ALL OF IT!!

SCARF CHOMF
SCARF CHOMF

MNCH
...
MNCH

OH!

W...WHAT AM
I DOING? I
HAVE TO TRY
AND SEDUCE
RANMARU...

I NEVER
TOOK YOU
FOR SUCH A
BIG EATER.

OH...



KAME,
LET ME
SEE YOUR
WOUND!!

SHUP

IT'S
BEGINNING
TO FESTER
...!!



KAME?!



AREN'T
YOU
OLD?

KAME, WE'VE
BEEN GIVEN
NEW KIMONO
TO WEAR...



THERE'S
ONE FOR
THAT GIRL
THERE
TOO.

KIMONO!!



WEAR
THIS.



DELETED

I'M
BACK...

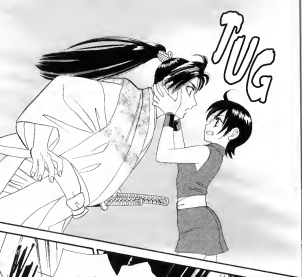


THANKS!!

I REALLY
WANTED
ONE...











NO, THAT'S
NOT RIGHT.



I'M
SORRY...

...HANZO.



THIS IS
FINE.



I'LL DO
ANYTHING
FOR
KAME.



Tail of the Moon

Chapter 68



TAIL OF THE MOON EXTRA: TODAY'S MISSION

"I WANT TO SEE HANZO DIET-WALKING!"

-KAYO, EHIME PREFECTURE

HANZO'S LIKE
A MODEL, SO
HE'S AS LOVELY
AS DUKE SARAE
CHHO'S ACTUALLY
A FORMER
MODEL!...





BUT...

TREMBLE



EAT YOUR
MEAL AND
GO BACK
TO YOUR
CELL!



THIS
IS...

...FINE...

...SEDUCE
RANMARU
AND...

I
NEED
TO...



I CAN
STILL FEEL
RANMARU'S
LIPS ON
MINE...

PLEASE
FORGIVE
ME!!

I'M
SORRY,
HANZO...



IT'S ONLY A
MATTER OF TIME
BEFORE RANMARU
BECOMES
COMPLETELY
INFATUATED WITH
YOU.

PROG-
RESS
?!

W H A A A T
...?!



I UNDERSTAND
HOW HARD IT IS
FOR YOU TO HAVE
RANMARU BECOME
YOUR FIRST MAN,
BUT YOU'VE GOT
TO TRY...



THIS
IS...

YOU'VE
MADE BIG
PROGRESS!





"EVEN WHEN
YOU'RE GOING TO
LET RANMARU
HAVE YOU, YOU
MUSTN'T ACCEPT
HIM THAT EASILY."



"YOU HAVE TO
RESIST A LITTLE
TO MAKE IT LOOK
NATURAL."



NOOOO...

NO...



ALREADY
...?!





THE KEY
TO THE
CELL...



THE
KEY...!!



!!

GRAB



THIS GUY
IS REALLY
SCARY!!

I'M
SCARED...



THOK



TO
ME...?!





THAT'S
ENOUGH...



...CAN'T
HOLD
MYSELF
MUCH
LONGER...

I...

WHAT
IS?

OKAY...



I
FOUND
THE
KEY!!



BUT WHAT
SHOULD I
DO?



RUSTLE



EVEN IF I STEAL
THE KEY, HOW
AM I SUPPOSED
TO RETURN TO
WHERE KAME
IS...?



KAME!

KAME!!

DASH

MMMPH...!!



WH...

KAME...

WAKE UP!!



WHYAH!

THEN
LET'S
GET THIS
OVER
WITH!!

SHUP



WHY,
YOU...

....!!

WHUP

FLIF
FLIF







NO...

DID
RANMARU
COME
AFTER
US...?

GLUB



Tail of the Moon

Chapter 69



TAIL OF THE MOON EXTRA: TODAY'S MISSION

"I WANT TO SEE USAGI AS A BOY!"

-AI, ISHIKAWA PREFECTURE



I DON'T
WANT TO
KISS
ANYONE
OTHER
THAN
HANZO!!

I...

U300

U300

NO...

GASP

GASP

GASP

NOOO...



WE'RE STILL
RIGHT BY LAKE
BIWA, WHICH IS
CLOSE TO
SAKAMOTO
CASTLE.



SAKAMOTO...?

HANZO...!!

IT'S...
NOT A
DREAM...

THANK
GOD...

DON'T
LOWER
YOUR
GUARD
THOUGH.

YOUR
FRIEND IS
ALIVE TOO.

KAME...!!

UNGH...

THE ONE
THING I DO
KNOW...

...IS THAT
YOU'VE GOT
NO TIME TO
BE PLAYING
AROUND
HERE.

WAS IT
THE IGA
NINJA...
?!

WHO
KNOWS?

THE TRANSPORTATION
UNIT'S CARRYING ALL
THE GUNS AND NEW
CANNONS FROM SAKAI
WERE ATTACKED AND
BLOWN TO
SMITHEREENS ALONG
WITH ALL THE
WEAPONS.

HAHA...

FINE,
I'LL
HELP
YOU
OUT.

MMNGH...

THIS IS
QUITE
AMUSING.

HA...

HAHA...

HA...

N
G
H
R
R

WHA...
WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

AT THIS
RATE, YOU
PROBABLY
DON'T KNOW
ANYTHING
ABOUT THE
INCIDENT AT
THE CAPITAL,
DO YOU?

THAT'S NONE
OF YOUR
BUSINESS...

...IF YOU'RE
MAKING AD-
VANCES AT A
WOMAN WHOM
YOU KNOW IS
A KUNICHI...

YOU'RE
STILL WET
BEHIND
THE
EARS...



BUT WE CAN'T
JUST LET THE
IGA NINJA RUN
FREELY...

RATHER
THAN FIGHT
THE IGA
NINJA...

SILENCE,
SADANARI!

...WE SHOULD
SET OUR EYES
ON THE TAKEDA
CLAN AND MOURI
CLAN INSTEAD!



VERY
WELL.

...MY YES...
LORD...

bow



I'LL LISTEN TO
YOUR ADVICE
FOR A CHANGE,
MITSUhide.



TH...

...THANK
YOU VERY
MUCH, MY
LORD!!



BUT THIS INCIDENT
HAS MADE IT HARD
FOR US TO SECURE
ALL THE WEAPONS
WE NEED ON THE
BATTLEFIELD...

...AND I FIND IT
INADVISABLE
TO START A
NEW WAR AT
THIS POINT...

WE'RE DOING
EVERYTHING WE
CAN TO SEARCH
FOR THE CULPRIT
BEHIND THE ATTACK
ON THE WEAPON
TRANSPORTATION
UNITS!!



...!

WHAT ARE
YOU TRYING
TO GET AT,
MITSUhide?



...RETHINK
THE
ATTACK
ON IGA!!

PLEASE...



IF WE DON'T
TREAT KAME'S
WOUND SOON,
IT'S GOING TO
GET WORSE...

BUT
IT'S TOO
DANGEROUS
TO MOVE
RIGHT
NOW.

WHAT'S
THAT...?

UNGH...

HANG
ON,
KAME!!

I'LL GO
AND LOOK
FOR SOME
HERBS.



WE'LL BE
BACK IN IGA
SOON.

YOU'LL
BE OKAY,
KAME.



THOSE MARKS
ON USAGI'S
NECK...WHAT
WERE THEY...?



I WANT
TO TAKE A
BATH...

SO
REST UNTIL
THEN.



IT'S ONLY
A LITTLE
WHILE
LONGER,
SO BE
PATIENT.



WE'LL LEAVE
THE MOMENT
THE SUN
SETS.



I WANT TO
WASH AWAY
THE FEELING OF
BEING TOUCHED
BY RANMARU...



THERE'S NO
WAY I COULD
HAVE LASTED
THAT LONG!!



AAAAAGH...

YOU DON'T
KNOW HOW
DISGUSTING IT
FELT TO HAVE
RANMARU
KISSING ME ALL
OVER....!!



...RANMARU
DO TO YOU?

WHAT
DID...



USA...

KAME,
HOW DO
YOU
FEEL?

WE'RE
SAFE
NOW.

HANZO
CAME TO
SAVE
US!!

We
just
left
to go
look
for
some
herbs.



AREN'T
YOU HAPPY
WE GOT OUT
OF THAT
PLACE?!

WAIT...

OH...
I SEE...



...SO THAT
I'D ALSO
BE ABLE
TO FULFILL
MY FIRST
ASSIGNMENT OF
INVESTIGATING
THE ODA
CLAN...

I WAS
HOPING
THAT
YOU'D BE
CLOSE TO
RANMARU
FOR ABOUT A
MONTH...

I NEVER
THOUGHT WE'D
BE ABLE TO
ESCAPE THIS
QUICKLY...

HUH?



I'M THE
ONE WHO
ASKED HER
TO SEDUCE
RANMARU!!



SEDUCE?!



USAGI?



"YOU
MUSTN'T
ALLOW
ANYONE TO
TOUCH
YOUR LIPS
BUT ME."

"YES..."

OH,
NO
...
...

I
PROMISED
HIM...

ANSWER
ME!!



PLEASE DON'T
CHASTISE LISA
ABOUT IT!

NO...
NOTHING...

IF HANZO
FINDS OUT,
HE'LL HATE
ME FOR
SURE!!

THEN
WHAT IS
THAT MARK
ON YOUR
NECK?

MARK?!



GOEMON!!

HUH?

WAAA

AGH

I...

...THOUGHT
YOU WERE
CAPTURED BY
THE ODA
CLAN...



...BUT I
KISSED
RANMARU
MANY
TIMES...

I KNOW
I DID IT
SO THAT
WE COULD
ESCAPE...

...AND I
EVEN...

COME
BACK
HERE!

SNIFF

I KNEW
HANZO WOULD
BE ANGRY IF
HE FOUND
OUT, BUT...

SOB

USAGI?!







DO YOU
HAVE ANY
IDEA...

...HOW
I FELT
WHEN I
ENTRUSTED
USAGI
TO YOUR
CARE?!

YOU'VE...

...GOT NO
IDEA, DO
YOU!!



WHY
DIDN'T
YOU
PROTECT
USAGI?!

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING TO
HANZO...?

WHY...?



TAIL OF THE MOON EXTRA: TODAY'S MISSION

"I WANT TO SEE HANZO AS SANTA CLAUS!"

-YUKO, FUKUOKA PREFECTURE

HANZO'S
EXISTENCE
ITSELF IS LIKE
A PRESENT
TO ME! SO IT'S
LIKE HAVING
CHRISTMAS
ALL YEAR
ROUND.



MISSION
ACCOMPLISHED!



HURRAY,
HURRAY!

LET
ME ON
TOO...

YOU NEED A
LICENSE TO
BECOME AN
OFFICIAL
SANTA
CLAUS!!





PLEASE...

...MAKE
USAGI
HAPPY.

KAME...

PLEASE
TAKE CARE
OF USA
FOR ME.

KAME!!

USA
TENDS
TO SLIP
UP A LOT...

...BUT
BECAUSE OF
YOU, SHE'S
REALLY BEEN
DOING HER
BEST.





I'VE ONLY
COME HERE
TO SUGGEST
THAT WE
HASTEN THE
ATTACK ON
IGA!

LORD
NOBUNAGA
IS STILL
ANGRY AT
YOU AND...

IN MY
STEAD?!

HAVEN'T YOU
HEARD, BIG
BROTHER?

THE ATTACK ON
IGA HAS BEEN
CANCELLED.

HEARD
ABOUT
WHAT?!

THEN I'LL
WAIT HERE
UNTIL HE'S
GOING TO
SEE ME.

LORD
NOBUNAGA
WON'T SEE
YOU.

HE...

...HEY...

PLEASE
DON'T ACT SO
INAPPROPRIATE!!

BIG
BROTHER...

I'M
SERVING
LORD
NOBUNAGA
AS HIS PAGE
IN YOUR
STEAD.

BOWARU!

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE...?!



YOU SHOULD
JUST WAIT
UNTIL YOU'RE
SUMMONED.



MY,
MY...



MITSU-
HIDE...

ARE YOU
GOING TO
DISOBEY LORD
NOBLUNAGA'S
DECISION?



GUESS I'LL
HAVE TO GO
ALL OUT AND
CAPTURE AN
IGA NINJA
OR TWO.



WELL
THEN...



MY EMPLOYER
HAS REALLY
LOST FACE
NOW...



WE'RE
NOT SURE
ABOUT
THAT YET...

BUT THAT
ATTACK IS
ALSO THE
WORK OF THE
IGA NINJA,
ISN'T IT?!

WHAT...?!

THE ATTACK ON
THE WEAPON
TRANSPORTATION
UNITS IN SAKAI
WAS DEVASTATING,
SO...

CAN'T YOU
TELL THAT
WE'RE PLAYING
RIGHT INTO
THEIR HANDS?!

PLEASE
CALM
DOWN...

THAT IS
ENOUGH,
RANMARU!!





...



YOU CAN
WAIT FOR
ME BY THE
FIRE.

ARE YOU
DONE?

YUP!
HERE!

SH A



"WHAT
IS THAT
MARK?"



IT'S
SO
COLD.

TAKE
YOUR
CLOTHES
OFF.



IT
LOOKS
LIKE
THE
OTHER
WILL

I'LL GO
AND WASH
THE MUD
OFF IN THE
RIVER.

HUH?



BUT I'M
SURE HE
STILL
DOESN'T
LIKE IT...



HANZO
SAID THAT
HE WON'T
BLAME ME
SINCE I
NEEDED TO
SURVIVE...



SO THIS
IS WHAT
HANZO WAS
TALKING
ABOUT...



BUT...

JUST DO AS I
SAY!!

OKAY...

RIPPLE
RIPPLE

OH...

HE'S A
NINJA, BUT
HE DOESN'T
HAVE A
SCRATCH
ON HIM...

HOW
AMAZING...
♡

I'M SO
DIRTY
COMPARED
TO HIM...

COME
HERE.

TUG

WOW

QUIET.

!!

FWAP

HANZO'S
BODY...

EH...
UM...

HOLD
THIS.

...IT'S SO
BEAUTIFUL...
♡♡♡





I CAN'T
LOVE YOU
THE WAY
GOEMON
DOES.

NO...

IT'S
NOTHING
...!!

WHAT...



BUT...

...I'LL LOVE
YOU IN MY
OWN WAY.



A WONDERFUL
PERSON LIKE
HANZO MARRYING
SOMEONE LIKE
ME...

I STILL
CAN'T
BELIEVE
IT.

I
WONDER
WHAT HE
THINKS
OF ME...

HMM?

I LOVE
YOU,
HANZO,
BUT...

I...

I DON'T
HAVE MUCH
CONFIDENCE...

K R K L

K R K L

AHH...

HMM...

THIS
KISS FEELS
STRANGE...

I'M
SORRY,
USAGI...

I...

...CAN'T
HOLD
MYSELF
BACK ANY
LONGER!

TO BE CONTINUED...

I
LOVE
YOU.

HANZO...

I HAVE TO
WORK HARD
AND BECOME A
FINE KUNOICHI
FOR HANZO.

?!
TO

Page 59, panel 1: **Kunoichi**

A term often used for female ninjas. The word is spelled くノ一, and when combined, the letters form the kanji for woman, 女.

Page 106: **Duke Sarale**

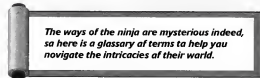
Duke Sarale is a famous posture/walking consultant in Japan who has schools both in Japan and abroad. His "Torso Walk" (the one Hanzo is doing) is one of his most famous walking practices as it supposedly helps one's walking posture.

Page 141, panel 1: **Sakai**

Sakai is a city in Osaka prefecture that is one of the largest and most important seaports in Japan. Once known for samurai swords, Sakai is now famous for quality kitchen knives and other cutlery.

Page 159: **Soramame**

Soramame are broad beans, also known as horse beans or fava beans. Sora means "sky" and mame means "bean." Mame also means "often" or "spare no pains in..." Thus, while Soramame-kun can be translated as "Mr. Horse Bean," it also acts as a pun meaning "checking the sky diligently."



Page 17, panel 4: **Sakamoto**

Sakamoto is a small village in Shiga prefecture (once known as Ōmi province). In 1571, Mitsuhide Akechi was awarded the Sakamoto estate for serving Oda Nobunaga.

Page 21, panel 5: **Margaret**

Margaret is a biweekly Japanese shōjo (girls') manga magazine published by Shueisha.

Page 22, panel 2: **Oda (Nobunaga)**

Oda Nobunaga lived from 1534 to 1582, and came close to unifying Japan. He is probably one of the most famous Japanese warlords. He was the first warlord to successfully incorporate the gun in battle, and is notorious for his ruthlessness.

Page 29: **Mount Ikoma**

Mount Ikoma is 642 meters high and located right on the border of Nara prefecture and Osaka prefecture. The top of the mountain is actually located within the Nara area.

Page 54: **Shinobi**

The character on Hanzo's belt is shinobi, which is another name for "ninja."

Page 54: **"Transform"**

The scarf-and-belt look Hanzo's wearing is reminiscent of Kamen Rider, a classical Japanese superhero from the '70s. The main character would utter "Transform!" and change into superhero form when he needed to fight bad guys.

Page 2: **Shimo no Hanzo**

Shimo no means "the Lower," and in this case refers to Hanzo's geographic location rather than social status.

Page 2: **Honnoji**

Honnoji is a temple in Kyoto. Oda Nobunaga often stayed here when he traveled to the capital.

Page 2: **Ranmaru Mori**

Ranmaru Mori is one of Nobunaga's most famous vassals. He became Oda Nobunaga's attendant at a young age and was recognized for his talent and loyalty.

Page 2: **Iga**

Iga is a region on the island of Honshu and also the name of the famous ninja clan that originated there. Another area famous for its ninja is Kouga, in the Shiga prefecture on Honshu. Many books claim that these two ninja clans were mortal enemies, but in reality inter-ninja relations were not as bad as stories might suggest.

Page 2: **Mitsuhide Akechi**

Mitsuhide Akechi became one of Oda Nobunaga's retainers after Nobunaga's conquest of Mino province (now Gifu prefecture) in 1566. He is known to have been more of an intellectual and a pacifier than a warrior.

